



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,261	10/31/2003	Kazuo Okada	SHO-0056	9217
23353	7590	06/29/2007	EXAMINER	
RADER FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC			PANDYA, SUNIT	
LION BUILDING			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1233 20TH STREET N.W., SUITE 501			3714	
WASHINGTON, DC 20036				
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE			
06/29/2007	PAPER			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/697,261	OKADA, KAZUO	
Examiner	Art Unit		
Sunit Pandya	3714		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 May 2007.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/24/07

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file. The applicant hereby has been granted priority based on prior foreign application filed on January 10, 2003.

Information Disclosure Statement

The additional information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 5/24/2007 is acknowledged. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 & 1.98. Accordingly, the examiner has considered the references listed therein.

Response to Amendment

This action is in response to amendment filed 5/24/2007, wherein claim 1 is amended and claims 3-7 are added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Loose et al. (US Patent 6,517,433).

Claims 1, 4: Loose et al. discloses of a gaming machine comprising a cabinet (figure 1), a decoration panel disposed on the front of the said cabinet (figure 1, element 24 & 26, figures 3-4, element 26), a display window on the front of the cabinet (figure 1), a plurality of rotating reels operative to rotate about a common axis inside the cabinet (figure 1, element 12a-12c), wherein each reels has plurality of symbols disposed on them (col. 1: 42-55) and the symbols are visible through the display window (figures 2a & 2b). Loose et al. also discloses a light source for illuminating the decorating panel and a reflection unit/plate to guide light emitted from the light source to illuminate the symbols by reflecting the light source from the plate (col. 2: 52-68, figures 4-8).

Claim 2: Loose et al. discloses of gaming machine wherein transparent liquid crystal device is provided in front of the rotary reels (col. 2: 25-35 and 43-47).

Claim 3: Loose et al. discloses of a gaming machine comprising a cabinet (figure 1), multiple decoration panels disposed on the front of the said cabinet (figure 1, element 24 is a button panel and 26 is a touch screen which can be utilized as additional decorative panel, figures 3-4), a display window on the front of the cabinet (figure 1), a plurality of rotating reels operative to rotate about a common axis inside the cabinet (figure 1, element 12a-12c), wherein each reels has plurality of symbols disposed on them (col. 1: 42-55) and the symbols are visible through the display window (figures 2a & 2b). Loose et al. also discloses multiple light sources for illuminating the decorating panel and a reflection unit/plate to guide light emitted from the light source to illuminate the symbols by reflecting the light source from the plate (col. 2: 52-68, figures 4-8 and col. 4: 50-60, wherein Loose discloses of an additional

display unit which would contain a light source to illuminate the secondary display unit and also a reflective surface for the secondary display unit).

Claims 5, 6: Loose et al. discloses of locating the illuminating unit between the display and the reflective unit, wherein the light emitted from the light source illuminates the reels (col. 1: 39-68).

Claim 7: Loose et al. discloses of one of the light source, which could be utilized to illuminate the light source (col. 1: 39-68) and a reflective unit which is disclosed between a light source and the display and thus the reflective unit does not block the light but enhances the light reflected off of its surface (col. 2: 52-68, figures 4-8).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 5/24/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding the applicant's arguments, that not all of the claimed features are disclosed within the cited prior art, the examiner respectfully disagrees with the applicant. The updated rejection discloses of all of the claimed elements as well as all of the elements of the newly added claims (see rejection above).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sunit Pandya whose telephone number is 571-272-2823. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pezzuto can be reached on 571-272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SP

/Corbett Coburn/
Primary Examiner
AU 3714